

B1  
cont

wherein said strain is mutated to contain a DNA cassette encoding a heterologous protein, wherein the insertion of said DNA cassette results in alteration of a *sapA* homolog, and the expression of said DNA cassette results in surface expression of a S-layer protein that represents a chimera between the native S-layer protein and the heterologous protein encoded by said DNA cassette.

Please amend claim 15 as follows:

Sub  
B2  
C10

15. (amended) A strain of *Escherichia coli*. modified to express *SapCDEF* genes.

Please amend claim 16 as follows:

Sub  
C1  
B3

16. (amended) The *Escherichia coli*. of claim 15, wherein a heterologous protein is expressed as a chimeric protein composed of sequences of heterologous origin, sequences that direct the secretion of said chimeric protein to the cell surface and sequences that direct the binding of the secreted chimeric protein to the lipopolysaccharides of the bacterial cell surface via the *sapCDEF* directed type 1 secretory system.

Please amend claim 17 as follows:

B4 17. (amended) A method of immunizing a host to generate immune responses to an immunogen, comprising the step of administering to said host a pharmacologically effective dose of the *Escherichia coli*. of claim 15.

Please amend claim 18 as follows:

Sub B5 18. (amended) The mutant *C. fetus* strain of claim 1, wherein all but one of the seven to nine *sapA* homologs are altered due to the insertion of said DNA cassette.

Please cancel claims 2, 4 and 14.